Particularly in our elementary and secondary schools, we are falling short not only of what we should achieve, but even more importantly we are falling short compared to the other nations of the world. In international comparisons, such as the Third International Mathematics and Science Study, we came in near the bottom of the developed nations in our high school science programs. We came in at the bottom in our high school physics programs. And overall we had a dismal record.

Now, how do we address this? There are various things we must do. First of all, we have to find good teachers; we have to train good teachers; we have to recruit good teachers; and, above all, we have to keep good teachers.

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When we talk about training teachers, it is not just a matter of training the new ones. We have to have good professional development programs to help teachers in the classrooms now because the science that should be taught today is not the science that they learned when they were in colleges and universities. The field changes too dramatically, too rapidly.

We also need better curricula, curricula that recognize the nature and substance of science today and also that recognize the needs of the teachers in the classrooms so that they can effectively teach science.

I am not here to cast aspersions upon any group or any individuals, I think we are all trying very hard. But the simple point is we are not succeeding, and so we have to do better.

If we look at our graduate schools today, across our Nation in science and engineering we have more graduate students from other nations than we do from our own Nation. This tells us that our students competing on a level playing field in our own universities cannot make the grade and other nations' students are filling in.

We have to change that. And I believe we have to change our math and science educational system from preschool through grad school to ensure three things. First of all, that we have an adequate number of good scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. Secondly, that our graduates of our schools are ready for the workplace of tomorrow. Because the workplace of tomorrow is going to require considerable knowledge of mathematics, science, and technology. Finally, we have to improve our educational system so that we will have better consumers and better voters in this Nation.

We need better consumers because today increasingly in the marketplace technical information is needed and is often provided but many in the public are not able to interpret it, whether it relates to health foods, whether it relates to medicine or other areas of life.

So I think, for those three reasons, producing better scientists and engineers, making our students ready for the workplace of tomorrow, and educating good consumers and good voters for the future, we must improve our math and science educational system. I am dedicating myself to helping the Congress and the Nation to improve our math and science educational programs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BOEHLERT (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of attending daughter's wedding.

Mr. GARY MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of family reasons.

Mr. ROGAN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. MENENDEZ (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of attending son's graduation.

Ms. SLAUGHTER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. McNulty) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. EHLERS, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, June 29, 1999, at 12:30 p.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2754. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Revision of the Sampling Techniques for Whole Block and Partial Block Diversions and Increasing the Number of Partial Block Diversions Per Season for Tart Cherries [Docket No. FV99–930–2 IFR] received June 11, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2755. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revisions, Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District and Tehama County Air Pollution Control District [CA 192–0132a; FRL–6334–5] received May 6, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2756. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Approval Under Section 112(1); State of Iowa [IA 069–1069a; FRL–6340–3] received May 6, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2757. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Utah; Foreword and Definitions, Revision to Definition for Sole Source of Heat and Emissions Standards, Nonsubstantive Changes; General Requirements, Open Burning and Nonsubstantive Changes; and Foreword and Definitions, Addition of Definition for PM10 Nonattainment Area [UT10–1–6700a; UT–001–0014a; UT–001–0015a; FRL–6340–1] received May 6, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2758. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine; Approval of Fuel Control Program under Section 211(c) [ME61–7010A; A–1–FRL–6338–2] received May 6, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2759. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Appendix A—Test Methods: Three New Methods for Velocity and Volumetric Flow Rate Determination in Stacks or Ducts [FRL–6337–1] received May 6, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2760. A letter from the Acting Chief, Enforcement Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Truth-in-Billing and Billing Format [CC Docket No. 98–170] received June 24, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2761. A letter from the Chief, Fees Section, Financial Operations Division, OMD, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of the Schedule of Application Fees Set Forth in Sections 1.1102 through 1.1107 of the Commisson's Rules [GEN Docket No. 86–285] received June 21, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

2762. A letter from the Attorney, General & Administrative Law, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Annual Update of Filing Fees [Docket No. RM98–15–000] received